GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2978
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL
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Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to ratify the Amendment adopted in 2005 to an IAEA convention on physical protection of Nuclear Material;

(b) if so, the details of the amended convention;

(c) the details of facilities available to the country thereby and the restrictions appended thereto; and

(d) the benefits accuring thereby to India`s security and power interests?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER`S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) to (d) India is a party to the IAEA Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) which was adopted in 1980. The primary objective of the Convention was to facilitate the international cooperation for effective physical protection of nuclear material while in international transport. In 2005 the 118 State parties to the CPPNM, after detailed negotiations, adopted amendments aimed at promoting a high level of physical protection of nuclear material and facilities in peaceful domestic use, storage as well as transport. It also provides for expanded cooperation between and among States with regard to rapid measures to locate and recover stolen or smuggled nuclear material, mitigate any radiological consequences of sabotage and prevent and combat related offences. The amendments are also intended to strengthen the legal basis for international cooperation in the investigation, prosecution and extradition of those who commit terroristacts and acts of sabotage thereby strengthening the international legal framework to combat terrorism. India participated actively in the negotiations. The Cabinet has approved India's ratification of the Amendment to the CPPNM. The Convention is an incentive instrument aimed at promoting a high level of physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities worldwide.